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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,174	12/14/2001	Martin S. Dell	Dell 3-5-2-6-29	5873
46900	7590	07/21/2005		
			EXAMINER	
			NGUYEN, BINH QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2664	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/017,174	DELL ET AL.
	Examiner Binh Q. Nguyen	Art Unit 2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/15/2000.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 9-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Cisneros* the US Patent No: (US 5,157,654).

Regarding claim 9; *Cisneros* teaches a switch fabric for routing data from one or more sources towards one or more destinations, comprising a switching stage configured between an input stage and an output stage wherein:

the input stage is configured to receive the data transmitted from the one or more sources and forward the data to the switching stage (*see Fig. 5, col. 13, lines 59-68, and col. 18, lines 54-68*);

the switching stage is configured to route the data received from the input stage to the output stage (*see col. 13, lines 64-86, and col. 14, lines 1-15*);

the output stage is configured to transmit the data received from the switching stage towards the one or more destinations (*see col. 14, lines 11-23, and col. 19, lines 46-68*);

the input stage transmits bids to the switching stage to request connections through the switching stage for routing the data to the output stage (*see col. 20, lines 26-60*); and

the switching stage comprises:

(1) a bid arbitrator configured to determine whether to accept or reject each bid (*see col. 20, lines 35-60*); and

(2) memory for storing one or more of the bids received from the input stage (see col. 20, lines 61-68, and col. 30, lines 1-22), wherein the bid arbitrator is configured to re-consider whether to accept a stored bid that was not accepted in a previous time slot (see col. 30, lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 10; Cisneros teaches the invention of claim 9, wherein:

the input stage comprises a plurality of input devices, each input device performing a port expansion function (see col. 13, lines 59-68, col. 18, lines 54-68, and col. 19, lines 1-21);

the switching stage comprises one or more crossbar devices, each crossbar device performing a data routing function (see Fig. 5, col. 13, lines 64-86, and col. 14, lines 1-15);

the output stage comprises a plurality of output devices, each output device performing a port contraction function (see col. 14, lines 11-23, col. 19, lines 46-68, and col. 22, lines 23-52);

each input device is configured to transmit bids to the one or more crossbar devices to request connections through the switching stage for routing the data to the output devices (see col. 28, lines 60-68, col. 29, lines 1-68, and col. 30, lines 1-22);

each crossbar device is configured to determine whether to accept or reject each bid received from an input device and the transmit a grant/rejection signal to that input device identifying whether the bid is accepted or rejected (see Fig. 8, 9A & 9B, col. 20, lines 26-68, and col. 21, lines 1-22); and

each crossbar device comprises:

(1) a bid arbitrator configured to determine whether to accept or reject each bid (see col. 20, lines 26-68, and col. 21, lines 1-22); and

(2) memory for storing one or more of the bids received from the input devices, wherein the bid arbitrator is configured to re-consider whether to accept a stored bid that was not accepted in a previous time slot (see col. 29, lines 61-68, and col. 30, lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 1; Cisneros teaches the invention of claim 9, wherein the switch fabric is fabricated as one or more integrated circuits (see Fig.5, 10, & 11, col. 18, lines 9-53).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1-8** are allowable.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-8563. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Binh Q. Nguyen
Patent Examiner
07/15/2005



WELLINGTON CHIN
EXAMINER
ADVISORY PATENT EXAMINER